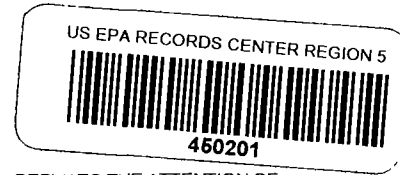




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

I.1
8/22/00



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

August 28, 2000

Ms. Angela Foster-Rice
Gardner Carton & Douglas
321 North Clark Street
Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60610-4717

Re: Nicor Response to Request for Information

Dear Ms. Foster-Rice:

This letter will confirm our conversations last week. On behalf of your client, Nicor Gas, your firm submitted a response to an information request issued by the U.S. EPA. In that response your firm asserted that information concerning certain Nicor customers is entitled to confidential treatment.

Last week you confirmed to me that Nicor did not object to U.S. EPA providing that information, along with the rest of the information provided in Nicor's response, to the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. As we discussed, the claim of confidentiality was intended to protect the privacy interests of those customers. These offices also have an interest in protecting the privacy of those customers.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Krueger
Assistant Regional Counsel

cc: Brad Stimple, U.S. EPA
Carol Ropski, U.S. EPA

bcc: Matthew Dunn, Illinois Attorney General's Office
Marie Spicuzza, Cook County State's Attorney's Office